

Early Childhood Advisory Council March 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:09 a.m. on March 20, 2014 at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call.....

The following members were present: Julie Ashmun, Jane Chandler, Marilyn Coffey, Ben Cundiff, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Tricia Okeson for Audrey Haynes, Cindy Heine, Tommy Floyd for Terry Holliday, Daphne Hosinski, Chair Rick Hulefeld, Marybeth Jackson, LaQuandra Nesbitt, Kevin Nix, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Joe Roberts, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, Ruth Ann Shepherd, and June Widman. The following members were not present: Tom Buford, Tom Burch, Amy Hood, Bill Scott and Tom Zawacki.

Approval of Minutes, December, 2013.....

On recommendation of Chair Rick Hulefeld, the minutes of the December 2013 meeting were amended as follows: Bill Scott was recorded as both present and absent, the minutes were corrected to note that Bill Scott was absent. On motion of Ben Cundiff, second by Brigitte Ramsey, the minutes of the December 2013 ECAC meeting were approved as amended.

Race to the Top Update

Joe Roberts presented an overview of Kentucky's Plan for Race to the Top. Since Kentucky's grant application was more of a plan to plan, Kentucky has been hard at work to complete the Scope of Work document, the first of many required steps to receive funding. One of Kentucky's grant strong points was the way in which Kentucky's plan was explained through an example family, the Johnsons. Kentucky used the Johnsons, who appear in the Race to the Top power point presentation, to explain each piece of Kentucky's plan as it relates to the business model of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Kentucky will:

- Expand the STARS Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) to make it easier for families to choose quality child care for their family
- Support families through an expansion of the Toyota bornlearning Academies
- Integrate the Strengthening Families Framework
- Improve the existing Professional Development system to be more responsive
- Expand and unify the early childhood educator training registry (ECE-TRIS)
- Integrate early childhood data into the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System to create a birth through workforce data system.

Several ECAC members commented on the presentation, noting how positively it has been received by public and private partners. Other ECAC members had questions about specific details of the grant, some of which have yet to be decided, as well as questions about where this particular presentation had been offered. The Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) had given this presentation to many partners and plans to continue sharing this message with local, state and even national partners.

CECC RFA Update.....

Amanda Flanary updated the ECAC on Community Early Childhood Council (CECC) work. Throughout the end of March into early April, Amanda Flanary will be traveling across the state to conduct regional face to face trainings with the CECCs about the Request for Application (RFA) process for FY2015. The Intent to Apply form and the RFA were released on March 17. The RFA did not change much from 2014 to 2015, but many more templates have been offered in order to aid CECCs and the GOEC in data tracking and reporting. At the next meeting, the ECAC should expect to be able to vote on CECC Funding for FY2015.

Workgroup Updates

Since Kentucky was awarded Race to the Top funds, the ECAC Workgroup Chairs met in January of 2014 to make decisions about the role of the ECAC workgroups in implementation of the plan. Many changes have been made and several updates have occurred.

Assessment: Chair Rick Hulefeld, in Amy Hood's absence, thanked the Assessment workgroup and explained that the assessment workgroup will sunset. He encouraged members to move to other workgroups. He recognized members that participated in the work of the Assessment workgroup, which included an update to the Parent Guides, the Continuous Assessment Guide and the Early Childhood Standards. Chair Rick Hulefeld thanked the following for their service: Felicia Smith, Amy Hood, Carla Brown, Bill Buchanan, Jaesook Gilbert, Paula Goff, Jennifer Grisham-Brown, Leslee Hellmann, Nancy Lovett, Sherri Meyer, Joe Roberts and Kathy Stovall.

Community Collaboration: Marilyn Coffey presented on behalf of herself and her co-chair Bill Scott on the most recent meeting of the Community Collaboration Workgroup. This workgroup intends to expand its membership to more accurately reflect the membership of a CECC. This workgroup hopes to become more responsive to CECC needs as well as to look at past processes to improve outcome based goals for CECCs. The workgroup would like to establish a feedback loop in order to improve CECC work.

Community Engagement: Cindy Heine reported that this group plans to re focus their efforts on specific target audiences, target topics and specifically will work more on communication engagement efforts. Courtney Daniel (from GOEC) has created many products that have been utilized by this workgroup. This workgroup will continue to

move forward as the Public Awareness group, and a second workgroup will be created to be more focused on communicating with families (see Supporting Families below).

Data: Brigitte Ramsey reported that the 2014 Early Childhood Profile had been released and was well received. She thanked the GOEC and the Kentucky Center for Education & Workforce Statistics (KCEWS) for their work in creating the Profile. She shared an example of how a local community might be excited about this profile. The GOEC will work with the Data workgroup to create a State level only profile, with data that cannot be included in the local profiles due to redaction requirements for small populations. The Early Childhood Profile is a continuous improvement effort and will be improved each year. Prior settings data was not released as planned, due to data quality issues. Several ECAC Members addressed concerns with issues surrounding the Profile such as: parents receiving 'not ready' reports, data collection inconsistencies leading to incomplete or incorrect K screener data, and whether or not schools are prepared for incoming students. Chair Rick Hulefled asked Brigitte to come prepared for the June ECAC meeting with the major questions the Data workgroup is trying to answer.

Professional Development (PD): Nicki Rowe presented on behalf of herself and her co-chair Amy Hood. She explained that the PD group had been discussing the changes Race to the Top would bring to PD in Kentucky. The expanded PD system will be more responsive to PD needs and will systematically build knowledge and skills across both public and private programs.

STARS: Tracy Haddix reported that most of what the STARS Workgroup has been working on was included in Joe Roberts Race to the Top update. With 93% of Race to the Top funding going to the STARS expansion, the STARS Workgroup will play a large role. The first task will be to look at updating each quality grid as well as developing pathways to quality for registered providers.

Supporting Families: Chair Rick Hulefeld invited ECAC members to join the newest workgroup of the ECAC which will work to support families through Race to Top work in Kentucky. Many good changes will be happening for Kentucky families and this group will ensure families understand and are able to make better choices for their children.

CCAP Update

Marybeth Jackson gave an update on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). The numbers she reported are based on a comparison of the same time period from 2013 to 2014. There are 5000 less children being served with CCAP dollars; however, there has been a small increase in STARS rated centers, versus any decrease. From a budget standpoint, CHFS is on target to realize the savings needed for the shortfall.

Executive Director's Report

Terry Tolan reported that the GOEC has been hard at work on many tasks. The GOEC has not yet added any staff for the Race to the Top work, the CECC RFA had just been posted, staff attended the Train the Trainer training for Strengthening Families, the GOEC office is being remodeled for Race to the Top staff, the Ready Kids Conference is in full planning mode with presentations being selected and registration opening early April, the monthly messages have been released each month, and the first ever early childhood session was hosted at Kentucky Leads the Nation in Hardin County. Terry has been sharing Kentucky's Race to the Top plan with many public and private partners across the state, and intends to present at early childhood conferences across the nation. Several ECAC members made suggestions about where to take the Race to the Top presentation such as: the SBDM Council Annual Meeting, the State Media group, the Kentucky Public Health Conference, and the County Judges. The GOEC Bill HB332 passed the house and was being read in the Senate. Secretary Haynes and Secretary Zawacki presented to the Senate on the behalf of the GOEC. Cindy Heine reported that the MIECHV funding is in jeopardy and asked that ECAC members follow up with their legislators in support of the reauthorization funding.

Conclusion and Adjourn.....

Rick Hulefeld asked that each workgroup come to the next meeting prepared to report on their ongoing work. He adjourned the meeting at 12:01pm. The next meeting of the ECAC will be Thursday, June 19, 2014.